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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,947	07/14/2005	Markus Winkler	003D.0034.U1(US)	5348
29683	7590	05/19/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.P.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/518,947	Applicant(s) WINKLER ET AL.	
	Examiner Edwin A. León	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/17/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed December 17, 2004 in which the Specification, the Abstract and Claims 1-10 have been amended, has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitations " all guide frame slots or ramps " and "the respective guide tabs or bearing tabs". These limitations are indefinite and confusing since there is no explanation on how the guide frames can have slots or ramps and how the tabs can be for guiding or for bearing. These limitations will be interpreted as being ramps and tabs for examination purposes. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fink (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,957). With regard to Claim 1, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses a connector arrangement with a first housing (12) and a second housing (30), each of which receives a plug arrangement (Fig. 2) and a socket arrangement (44), respectively, and can be joined together by means of a cross slider (18, 20) which has guide frame ramps (24, 26), and which is controlled by a pivoted lever (32) mounted on a housing (12), is hereby characterized in that all guide frame ramps and the bearing of the pivoted lever are open in the direction of plugging, in order to make possible an insertion of the respective tabs (50).

With regard to Claim 2, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the end of the guide frame ramps of the cross slider situated toward the plugged end of the first housing has, in each case, an opening (Fig. 3) that is parallel to the direction of plugging for receiving guide tabs arranged correspondingly on the second housing and, in the bottom of the

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guide frame, first spring catch arms (74, 68) are formed, in each case, in the region of the opening.

With regard to Claim 3, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses at its free end, the first catch arm has a catch piece (74, 68) dropping off at an angle to the opening, the back side of which has a catch shoulder (Fig. 3) for blocking the guide tab.

With regard to Claim 4, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the openings of the guide frame ramps widen toward the plugged end of the first housing.

With regard to Claim 5, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the pivoted lever is mounted in two bearing sleeves (34) on the first housing, which are open in the direction of plugging and which secure the bearing tabs of the pivoted lever by a second elastic spring arm (Fig. 3) for each tabs, on one side of the bearing sleeve opening.

With regard to Claim 6, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the second elastic spring arms are arranged on an attached piece (Fig. 3) of the first housing next to the bearing sleeves in such a way that their free end secures, in each case, the bearing tabs in the bearing sleeves.

With regard to Claim 7, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the second elastic spring arms extend at an angle to the direction of plugging.

With regard to Claim 8, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the first housing has a circular segment guide frame slot (Fig. 3) that is open in the direction opposite to the direction of plugging and in part concentric in relation to the bearing sleeve.

With regard to Claim 9, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the open side of the circular segment guide frame slot extends parallel to the direction of plugging.

With regard to Claim 10, Fink (Figs. 3-6) discloses the cross slider has a slot parallel to the direction of plugging and open in the direction opposite to the direction of plugging, which, in the unactuated position of the pivoted lever, lies below the opening of the circular segment slot, in order to receive the respective guide tab of the pivoted lever.

Conclusion

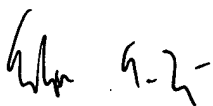
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shuey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,475,004), Sharples et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,824,406) and Hoyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,162,072) discloses connectors similar to Applicant's claimed invention.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
May 9, 2006

TRUC T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

